

power systems to make decisions in the best interests of their consumers and protect the reliable, affordable electric service that Nebraska currently enjoys.●

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE'S CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW

● Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize an outstanding University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers basketball player, senior Chamique Holdsclaw.

Last week, Chamique Holdsclaw was recognized as the outstanding amateur athlete in the nation when she was awarded the 1998 James E. Sullivan Memorial Award. Chamique is the first female basketball player—and only the third basketball player, male or female—to win the award in its 69-year history.

It comes as no surprise to those of us from Tennessee that Chamique, the second University of Tennessee athlete in two years to take the honor, follows former Volunteer quarterback Peyton Manning. Other winners of this prestigious award include Bill Walton, Bill Bradley, Bonnie Blair, Florence Griffith-Joyner and Bruce Jenner.

Mr. President, Chamique Holdsclaw is one of the finest college basketball players in America, who time after time has displayed grace under pressure, sinking last-minute, game-winning shots. She has led both her high school and college teams to national basketball championships. And of course we all remember last year when she led the Lady Volunteers to a 39-0 record and a third straight national title. Chamique has Tennessee on track for a fourth straight title this season.

To measure the impact this Tennessee senior has had on women's sports over the past four years, you did not have to look any farther than across from the Lady Vols bench last week, where former Sullivan winner Jackie Joyner-Kersey sat. After meeting Chamique at an awards ceremony two weeks ago, Joyner-Kersey was so impressed that she flew in from St. Louis for Chamique's final regular-season home game, in which she scored 25 points and pulled down 11 rebounds.

Regardless of what greatness Chamique Holdsclaw achieves in her pro career, her time at Tennessee has clearly changed the game. Though plenty of women's college basketball legends came before her, Chamique became her sport's first national superstar. She took hold of that spotlight, thrived under the pressure it brought with it, and made history.

Mr. President, the Sullivan Award recognizes athletes who have excelled in competition while exhibiting leadership, character and sportsmanship. Chamique Holdsclaw embodies each of these qualities and is the kind of per-

son we should encourage all our young people to emulate. Her determination and dedication to excellence remind us that we each have the power to make a positive difference.●

TRIBUTE TO JOUSHUA HEWITT AND DANA WALSH

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to recognize two young students from my state who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Joushua Hewitt of Perry, NY, and Dana Walsh of Oceanside, NY, have been named State Honorees in the 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Each year this program honors students who have demonstrated outstanding community service.

These two fine students have given back to their communities in many ways. Mr. Hewitt is being recognized for his efforts in staging a simulated traffic accident to graphically demonstrate the horrors of drunk driving to his classmates. Ms. Walsh is being recognized for coordinating a fund-raising drive at her school, which raised \$3,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. These two students are excellent examples of young adults who are working hard to make their communities better and they deserve to be honored.

Mr. Hewitt and Ms. Walsh should be extremely proud to have been singled out from a group of dedicated volunteers from across the country. As part of their recognition, they will come here to the Capitol in May for several days of special events, including a Congressional breakfast reception. While in Washington, 10 of the 1999 Spirit of Community honorees will be selected as America's top youth volunteers. I commend all of those who have been nominated.

It is my honor to congratulate these young people who have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world. They deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.●

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask that a statement I submitted to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on the committee's markup of S. 280, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999, be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows:

Mr. Chairman, improving our nation's schools is clearly a crucial task and one de-

serving of the committee's time and attention. However, I regret that the committee has chosen to proceed with the consideration of Senator Frist's Ed Flex bill today, just a scant hour after two of this century's most important Senate votes.

The Senate is currently engaged in the conduct of our most serious constitutional duty—the impeachment trial of the President. Rightfully, this undertaking has engaged all of our time and energy. Beyond our required attendance on the Senate floor, we have also each been engaged in party conferences, smaller group discussions with our colleagues and other meetings crucial to the Senate's consideration. Today, in particular, was a crucial moment in this proceeding, with two historic votes on continuing the trial. These votes necessitated further discussions and meetings in search of a consensus on how to proceed.

And yet, in the midst of this turmoil, the committee chose to go forward with this mark up. I believe this step was both inappropriate and unwise. Education and the other issues before our committee are too important to move forward without our full attention and involvement. We need the opportunity to thoughtfully examine Ed Flex and other proposals, consider changes and discuss these issues with each other and our staffs. Without this level of involvement, the chances for moving strong, bipartisan legislation with any hope of passage diminish significantly.

I recognize that putting these matters aside until the impeachment trial is a settled matter is particularly difficult when discussing education. We all care a great deal about education and improving our schools. And we all know, contrary to what we have all been doing since we got here in January, education is the work we were sent here to do by our constituents.

In addition, the measure before the committee today, the Education Flexibility Partnership bill, is one that we all spent a great deal of time on last year. I personally offered three amendments and worked cooperatively and extensively with Senator Frist to improve the underlying language of the bill throughout the committee's consideration. Ultimately, I voted for the bill, but had significant reservations, which I expressed in my additional views to the committee report.

Unfortunately, nothing in these intervening months has happened to allay my concerns. We have had no hearing on this demonstration program or this bill. There continues to be basically no data on gains in student achievement—the central goal of the Ed Flex program. We continue to consider this legislation outside of the context of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, where it rightly belongs. We have had two GAO reports raising fundamental issues about the Ed Flex program. We have yet to consider other significant proposals for reform in our schools. And, yet, in moving forward today, the committee is clearly intent on proceeding without addressing or considering these concerns.

Mr. Chairman, I remain convinced that you and Senator Frist are committed to working in a bipartisan fashion on this bill and in developing strong education policy generally. It is clear this is only path by which we can get things done. But bipartisanship is hard work that demands substantive engagement by members. In my view, there was clearly not the time or opportunity to do so, today, with the Senate so rightfully occupied with impeachment.